Up in Smoke



Photo Illustration by Lisle Alderton

Because of insufficient funds on campus, fire hazards are often left unfixed. Buildings needing to be updated in order to meet fire codes are put

Fire code violations affected by budget

Danny Davis | COLLEGIAN

Funding limits for the past 10 years have prevented some buildings on campus from meeting fire codes. Abe Fattaey, director of facilities planning, said they are allocated \$500,000 per year to correct fire code issues.

"Because of the budget, we have a backlog of citations from the state fire marshall," said Randy Slover, director of fire inspection.

Slover and Larry Zents, fire prevention inspector, perform building inspections throughout the year, he said. Minor noncompliance issues, such as door latches or fire doors that are left open, can be corrected when they are spotted. Other issues, such as stairwells and sprinkler systems, require more funding than the division is allocated, so the issues are placed on a list of noncompliance violations.

The list has been maintained since

2000, said Ed Heptig, director of maintenance. The Division of Facilities has only begun to work on violations from 2005.

Where we can't remedy issues, we've increased inspections," Heptig said. "Urgent items are prioritized."

Money to correct fire code violations comes from state funding through repair and rehabilitation funding. The funding, consisting of \$5 million allows the division to repair leaking roofs, air conditioning, and other maintenance issues, Fattaey said.

The 10 percent of the funding that goes towards fire code corrections is a large amount of money, proportionally, Fattaey said.

"The resources are not enough," Fat-taey said. "Some of the buildings need substantial costs to bring them up to code."

Fire codes for buildings change every three years, Fattaey said. That is the reason why many buildings have noncom-

pliance issues. In terms of fire codes, there is no such thing as grandfathering, he said. Therefore, older buildings receive the same inspection and violations as a new building would.

Buildings that are recently constructed or renovated must be brought up to fire code, Heptig said. The money for those comes from the deferred maintenance budget, however, and does not impact the Division of Facilities' budget for fire code corrections.

Noncompliance issues are often not life threatening, however.

"Just because the code says something is unsafe, it doesn't mean that it will burn down tomorrow," Fattaey said. "It takes a

lot of time to go in and correct issues." Fattaey said they may never catch up on the list as new fire code is written and more violations are noticed. They are making a continuous effort, however, to correct as many violations as their budget permits, he said.

Power outage inconvenience for students, faculty

Tim Schrag | COLLEGIAN

power outage affected more than two dozen buildings on campus yesterday morning. When the power went out at 8:30 a.m., telling ghost stories in the dark was not an option for Kent Kerby's Principles of Biology class, which was working on a lab on the second floor of Ackert Hall.

"We thought we'd concentrate on biology," said Kerby, associate professor of biology.

Kerby's classroom had more than 80 students in it working on a microscopy lab. When the lights went off and the emergency power came on, Kerby had to rethink his lesson plans.

"Once that happened, micros-

copy stopped," he said. Along with his fellow instructors, who teach the class as a team, he began a review session for an upcoming exam as opposed to canceling class. He said the instructors felt the students could not afford to lose a day of

"We have a fairly packed schedule that starts on day one, and it really doesn't finish until the last minute of the last day, so what we did instead was ... go over the material that we covered last week for this exam," Kerby said.

Kerby said he did not think

the outage was a hindrance to his class.

"You have to be flexible when you're teaching for a number of reasons," he said.

Dale Boggs, associate director of facilities, said the outage was caused by burnt wiring in the 41,600-volt southwest substation, which caused more than 25 buildings on campus to lose

power for more than an hour. Boggs said prior to the outage, facilities' crews have been working on upgrading K-State's power grid, which partially dates back to the 1960s, with new cables and above-ground switches prior to the outage to make repairs swifter and easier in the future. He also said the system upgrades had nothing to do with

He said that power was restored to most of campus by 9:20 a.m., leaving only the K-State Student Union without power until 10 a.m. The parking garage was hooked up to a backup generator at 9:45 a.m., and it too received power at 10 a.m.

Though the outage inconvenienced many K-Staters, some got away with a free parking

Ande Jorgenson, senior in marketing and economics and Parking Services employee, said the parking garage stopped charging drivers to park until a generator

restored its power.

"When power goes down, we just let people in," he said.

Jack Connaughton, director of operations and assistant director for the Union, said he did not expect to have to deal with a power outage this soon after upgrading the building's electrical sys-

"We just connected to a new electrical system a few months ago, and we thought we wouldn't have this again," Connaughton said. "I don't know what happened today, but it obviously hurts us because we're not state-

supported." He said he was also concerned for the financial backlash the Union faces as a result of the

"Different operations have limitations on how they can function today," Connaughton said.

A conference for graduate research in the Union was canceled, and an economics test and one other meeting were inter-

rupted.Rebecca Burns, senior in biological and agricultural engineering, was on her way to her job as a tutor in Leasure Hall when she got stuck in an elevator for about 20 minutes because of the out-

"I pushed the call button, and no one answered the call when I pushed it," she said.

Burns said she had to call a friend already at work to go get

help. "I think a maintenance guy or a cop came over and realized I was in there, and so he told me 911 was on the way and then they let me out," she said. "It's a good thing I'm not claustrophobic because it was dark, and my laptop was about to die."

Burns said she will be reluctant to enter another elevator anytime soon, but that she was more concerned about K-State's poor response to help her.

"I'm a little worried about K-State's ability to respond to things like that if they don't answer," she said. "I wouldn't mind having to wait, but I was just a little bit upset because they didn't answer the phone. Why would you have it there if you aren't going to answer it?'

Ed Heptig, director of facilities, said due to yesterday's outage, some of the planned maintenance outages scheduled for spring break will have to be moved forward so that pressure can be relieved from the current system. K-State will be upgrading the current 41,600-volt system to a 12,500-volt system.

"We'll do whatever it takes to get that southwest substation back online to remove the load and equal it out from north to south," he said.

SGA

Election changes passed

Danny Davis | COLLEGIAN

Student Senate passed two bills Thursday evening in an effort to make the elections process constitutional. Last semester, they passed chang-es that were later ruled unconstitutional and "not in the best interest of SGA" by the Student Tribunal.

Under the new bills, the Elections Commissioner no longer has the ability to file complaints, said Student Body President Dalton Henry, senior in agricultural economics, agricultural communications and journalism. Furthermore, the removal process for the elections commissioner is now by impeachment, instead of by the unanimous decision of the SGA officers.

"We had to spend a lot of time to grasp this concept," Henry said. "Obviously a process of constitutional interpretation is not something we do everyday."

The senate voted in favor of moving the bills in special order, where they may be voted on during the same meeting that they are introduced. Typically, bills are presented in one meeting and voted on in the next.

Senator Joe Norris, senior in pre-law and civil engineering, said that with the new bills, most of the work completed last semester would be preserved.

Ashton Archer, senator and sophomore in mechanical engineering and political science, proposed an amendment to the process before it was voted on. While reviewing complaints, elections commissioner Katleen Sexton, junior in education, has one other person in the room with her. Faculty Representative and Coordinator for Student Activities Gayle Spencer will be present for hearings of complaints.

"I believe the coordinator for student activities has a vested interest in the election outcome," Archer said.

Archer proposed replacing Gayle Spencer with either a member of the judicial board or a person not affiliated with the senate. The amendment, however, did not pass the

Henry said that in order for the tribunal to make a decision on constitutionality, two-thirds of its voting membership (5) was required to be present for its ruling. Only four voting members were in attendance, therefore the tribunal's ruling would not

stand. Senator George Weston, graduate student senator in public administration, said that since the two faculty members for the tribunal would not participate, the two-thirds was based off of current tribunal members, thus only four needed to be present.

Bill Muir, faculty representative, said that the SGA Statutes and Bylaws required two faculty members be present for a constitutional interpretation.

"If you could name the other two members, go right ahead," Weston said.

Neither Muir nor the other senators named the two faculty members of the tribunal.

Weston went on to compare the voting membership of the tribunal to the senate and said that the senate's voting membership is determined by those who attend meetings, not by the number of the senate as a whole.

See SGA, Page 5



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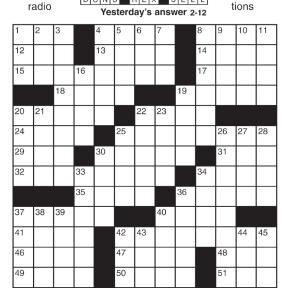
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2-12 **CRYPTOQUIP**

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ERSUG R Q A R B OVFFLOJI. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THOSE THIEVES DECIDED TO STEAL THE BIG BLANKET, COULD YOU SAY THEY WERE TAKING COVER? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals E

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DAILY BLOTTER

ARREST REPORTS

WEDNESDAY

capital

forecast

your life?

hood

die

Stuart Anthony Ostrom, Westmoreland, Kan., was arrested at 11:10 a.m. for two counts of probation violation. Bond was set at \$507.99.

Brandon Durell Wooten, 2035 Fort Riley Blvd., was arrested at 12 p.m. for sale or distribution of hallucinogens and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Paul Steward Nyakatura, 1230 Claflin Rd., was arrested at 6:10 p.m. for sale or distribution of a depressant, possession of drug paraphernalia and no Kansas drug tax stamp. Bond was set at

Kimberly Yuvetta McGhee, 1200 Yuma St., was arrested at 9:45 p.m. for driving with a canceled or suspended license. Bond was set at \$750.

Kayla Nicole Kenton, 415 Walters Dr., was arrested at 11:10 p.m. for battery. Bond was set at \$500.

THURSDAY

Joshua Scott Stephens, 815 Humboldt St., was arrested at 2:05 a.m. for burglary of a vehicle and criminal damage to property. Bond was set at \$2,000.

To view the daily arrest report from the Riley County Police Department, go to the Collegian Web site, www.kstatecollegian.com.

Powercat Financial Counseling will host walk-in Financial Friday from 9 - 11 a.m. in Office of Student Acivities and Services located on the

ground floor of the Union. The City of Manhattan Parks & **Recreation Department** is looking for volunteer coaches for the upcoming youth soccer season. The season will run approximately March 1 - May 6. MPRD is also hiring soccer officials at a pay rate of \$12 - \$24 per game.

Mayer at mayer@ci.manhattan.ks.us. The Mortar Board Senior Honor Society will sponsor Campus Administrative Panel on Feb. 16th from 12 - 1 p.m. in the Union Courtyard. Enter to win a drawing for two \$100

Scholarships.

Interested individuals may contact

MPRD at 785-2757 or e-mail Jeff

The K-State Women's Center will be sending valentines to the Manhattan Emergency Shelter and the Crisis Center. Stop by the K-State Women's Center Kiosk in the Union, next to the radio station, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. All craft supplies will be provided.

Information Technology Assistance Center will be presenting the following orientations. The events are open to all K-State faculty, staff and students. Registration required. -IT Orientation: IT Training will be held

THE PLANNER

CAMPUS BULLETIN BOARD

from 2-3 p.m. Feb. 17 in Hale Library room 401B. -IT Orientation: Computing at K-State will be held from 2-3 p.m. Feb. 23 in Hale Library room 401B. -IT Orientation: Library Technology will be held from 10-11 a.m. March 4 in Hale Library room 401B. -IT Orientation: Emerging Technologies will be held from 10-11 a.m.

March 10 in Hale Library room 401B.

Rec Services is offering a Spring Break Shape Up program designed for two individuals to be able to work out together with a Wildcat personal trainer twice a week for three weeks. The program begins Feb. 15. Cost is \$45 per person. Program limited to the first 30 pairs who sign up. Only K-State students and Peters Recreation Complex members may participate. For more information, call 785-532-6980.

Women on Weights will be held Feb. 20 from 3 - 4:30 p.m. at the Rec. This program is free of charge. Sign up in the office at the Rec Complex by calling 785-532-6980.

Sign up for intramural whiffle ball by Feb. 18, by 5 p.m. in the administrative office at the Rec. Sign up a fourperson team with up to 10 individuals on a roster. The cost is \$1.08 per person. Competition will be tournament format held Feb. 20, beginning at 10 a.m. For more information and entry

forms, go to recservices.k-state.edu.

Rec Services is offering a new workout class beginning Monday: Jump Rope Fitness. The class will meet on Mondays at 3:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 5 p.m. at the Rec. This is a free class, but will be limited to 25 participants per session. Reserve your spot at the service desk. For more information, call 785-532-6980.

The TechBytes series is offering the following sessions. The series is open to all K-State faculty, staff and students. Registration is not required. All sessions are from 1:30-2:30 p.m. and held in 501 Hale Library except for the one on Feb. 25, which will be held in 301A Hale. -Feb. 18 - Time to Talk - This presenta-

tion focuses on new Web 2.0 tools. -Feb. 25 - Uses of WordPress -March 4 - Twitter Tools -March 11 - Zimbra Calendar -March 25 - Google Wave

The Planner is the Collegian's bulletin board service. To place an item in the Planner, stop by Kedzie 116 and fill out a form or e-mail news editor Bethaney Wallace at news@spub.ksu.edu by 11 a.m. two days before it is to run. Some items might not appear because of space constraints, but are guaranteed to appear on the day of the activity. Confirmation will not be provided.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, call news editor Bethaney Wallace at 785-532-6556 or e-mail news@spub.ksu.edu.

kansas state **collegian**

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SGA

Free DRAG SHOW

Friday, February 12 @ Forum Hall Doors open at 7:00 pm Local and national performers!

> Admission FREE, but tips appreciated

History of V-Day explained

Jillian Aramowicz | COLLEGIAN

When thinking of Feb. 14, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Is it chocolate? Flowers perhaps? Is it sappy cards, chubby cupids and a wide array of warm and fuzzy feelings? If you are like me, then you have a severe problem with the amount of effort and emphasis the world puts on this cheesy holiday, but truth be told, the origination of St. Valentine's Day has little to do with love. The history of Valentine's Day is actually a dark and twisted tale of conspiracy, persecution, and murder. The holiday is looking more interesting already, is it not?

Many people know that Valentine's Day is actually symbolic of the day that St. Valentine was martyred. However, a particularly interesting fact is that there was not just one St. Valentine in history. In fact, in early A.D., many Christian martyrs bore the name "Valentine," similar to how many Popes in history have the same papal name. However, there are two Valentines that have made the greatest contribution to the creation of the holiday.

St. Valentine of Rome was one of the two important men who managed to make a few other important men angry enough to receive a death sentence. This Valentine happened to be a priest who was killed circa A.D. 269. Trouble started when the Roman emperor Claudius II found out Valentine believed in Christianity, and not Roman Paganism, the accepted religion of the time. Claudius told Valentine to convert to the pagan religion, to which Valentine promptly refused. He then tried to convert the emperor to Christianity, which angered Claudius so much that he had Valentine thrown in jail and executed.

The second Valentine, St. Valentine of Turni, was a bishop that fell under persecution from the Emperor Aurelian and was convicted and executed much in the same manner. Although, not much is said of this martyred saint, his story also does not contribute to how the holiday became symbolic of sentimental love. So when exactly does this love business come into play?

The loving part of Valentine's Day actually has its roots with a classical writer. A popular story about Valentine's Day is that it marked the beginning of the mating season for certain birds.

This rumor is all the fault of Geoffrey Chaucer. In his 1382 poem, "The Parlement of Foules," Chaucer made a reference to two mating birds on Valentine's Day. Chaucer was actually making a metaphor for the recent marriage of King Richard II to Anne of Bohemia, and when he mentioned Valentine's Day in the poem, he was not referring to Feb. 14. He was actually talking about May 2, which was not only the anniversary of the young king and queen, but also the celebration of yet another, nonmartyred Valentine, St. Valentine of Genoa. However, because of this poem, the term "lovebirds" was coined and is still used today.

Although the stories behind this holiday are somewhat strange, sometimes sacreligious, and not al-ways about love, these different parts of history are what make Valentine's Day unique. Even if you aren't a fan of Feb. 14, it is certainly interesting what the world has gone through to make Valentine's Day the legend that it is.

Rockin' the House

Eli Young Band plays in Wareham Thurs.

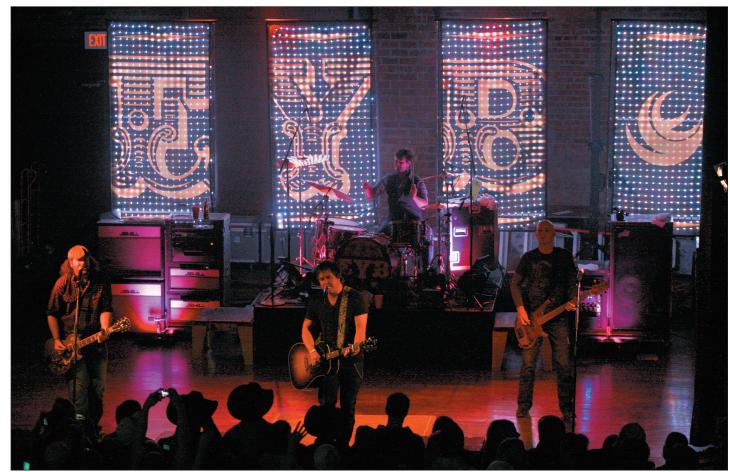


Photo by Lisle Alderton | COLLEGIAN

The Eli Young Band plays Thursday Night at the Wareham Opera House to a sold out crowd. The band consists of four members: founders Mike Eli and James Young and other members, Jon Jones and Chris Thompson.

They are one of the

hardest-working

bands, playing for

years and years all

over the country."

Aaron Weiser | COLLEGIAN

The Eli Young band rocked the Wareham Opera House last night as they played for a soldout crowd. Making their first appearance at the Wareham in the half-dozen or so times they've been to town.

Pearl snaps abounded and beer flowed like the notes reverberating in the air; you could hear the band down the block.

The first act for the night was the Blaine Younger Band. With a pair of K-State alumni on board, they started the show. It was the first night for the Blaine Younger Band at the

Sponsored in part by B104.7, the Eli Young Band concert at the Wareham brought in all sorts. From swinging cowboys to sweatpants-wearing 18-yearolds, music connects them all.

We've sponsored the band at the Flint Hills Music Festival before. We've been play-

ing them for a long time, before anyone else," said B104.7 program director Drew Bartlett. "They are one of the hardest-working bands, playing for years and years all over the country. They have played a lot of shows and are finally getting some national attention."

With eight years of lugging equipment to small Texas clubs, of saying goodbye to relationships torn by their weekend travels, the band continued to solidify their dedication to their music and their fans.

"I moved to Texas in 1998

for college and the band started soon after that," said Jon Jones, bass player for the Eli Young Band. "None of us grew up together, but we did most of our growing up together ... in college."

After so many years together on the road, they have a strong following. It started out as locals following them around Texas but has grown now to national exposure.

> most a decade on the road together, the band has gotten into a groove when it comes to playing

With

al-

"It's always different," Jones said. "If tour, then life is like a real

regimen. But when we are out on our own we like to have fun. We're doing the show in Manhattan and it is always real fun, we've gotten to know a few little places."

The college crowd thoroughly enjoys their country music, especially with rocking acts at the Wareham. With a pair of big names and a couple soldout shows this year, Manhattan is picking up some swagger with the gigs it has been able to

"I like their music because I like red dirt music," said Clay Croft, sophomore in general agriculture. "It's just something that I enjoy and they usually put on a good show."

With a wedding coming later this spring and a newly engaged bassist, the Eli Young Band is learning to cope with national pressure. Their album "Jet Black and Jealous" that came out in 2008 and landed them in the Top five on the Billboard Country album charts continues to prove that the band is coming along well for a group of wiley kids out of Texas.

Night on the town: top ten places to take a date

Valentine's Day winds up the weekend this year and there are many people who don't know what they should do. But more importantly, people seem stymied by ordinary dates. "Where should we go? What to do?" Well fret not froshie, trying to impress your new guy or gal, check out what Manhattan has to offer and some of the things to do beyond the ordinary.

AGGIEVILLE

If you get a hankering to be around people, show off your new catch or just hang out with friends (assuming of course that you are both of age). Then take the town college style. Small tip, leave your plastic at home and only take as much cash as you care to spend, but more importantly, keep it smart, not remembering your date will probably not lead to a phone

TUTTLE CREEK STATE PARK

Head out for a camping trip when it warms up. A random night off away from stress will do both of your bodies good. Don't take friends and leave the beer at home. Tent, fire, dinner and the makings for s'mores and you two will be good to go.

ICE SKATING

A seasonal jaunt to the Jon and Ruth Ann Wefald Pavillion in city park will get you out of the house. Letting out the kid inside is a great way to put off stress and reconnect

on a fun level.

DINNER OUT ON THE TOWN

Dinner is a classic, but make it classy. Dress up for each other and get her a flower. You don't have to spend much to make it look good, change it up and try something new. Hit up Harry's or Houlihan's or Della Voce, do something crazy ... crazy nice, and it will show how much you care.

HIKING AT LINEAR TRAIL OR KONZA PRARIE

The great outdoors; shut off the television and take in the sun. No experience is necessary for enjoying a nice walk in the sun with a special someone and mama na-

Parks in town: 21 total including

Scenic Overlook "Hey, hey Boo Boo." Take your other half on a "pic-a-nic." No fancy basket necessary and avoid a windy day, trust me. Go out and enjoy sunset/sunrise at the overlook or catch a game of Frisbee. Just hanging out is always a great way to relax.

CARMIKE 12 CINEMA

If you prefer dinner and a movie, you'll likely end up here. Not a problem; being routine does not make you lame, go see something the other person wants to see. You may not be open to it immediately, but chances are you'll enjoy something new and they will be impressed because you care.



Photo by Sara Manco | COLLEGIAN

Harry's restaurant and the Wareham Opera House on Poyntz Avenue are two options for a fun date in Manhattan.

WAREHAM

Catch a concert. Nothing is quite as special as surprising that someone special with a pair of tickets to see a concert they will love. Check out the Wareham Opera House or Kathouse Lounge.

MANHATTAN TOWN CENTER

This may be favorably written for guys, unless ladies, you have a real shopper for a guy. Take her out to the mall. Don't go to the mall with her, go with a plan. "I want to buy you a new outfit," or get her some

jewelry and have her try things on. It's involving both of your tastes and you won't pick out something that she will only wear because she feels guilty if she doesn't.

MARIANNA KISTLER BEACH MUSEUM OF ART

If you feel the need to impress a more refined taste, catch some artwork on display at the local museum. A stroll through the beautiful halls of artistic expression will give you something to talk about and a chance to get to know a little more about that other person.

Compiled by Aaron Weiser.



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Where's the Change?



'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' needs repealed sooner than later



There has been a review of the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in the higher echelons of the government re-

However, we need to make changes to the policy, not just discuss them.

The current policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" stipulates that openly gay people cannot serve in the military. Gay people serve in the military as long as they abstain from homosexual acts and refrain from talking about homosexual acts or lifestyles.

This law was passed during the presidency of Bill Clinton in 1993. Before this law, the law that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service" dictated that gays were not allowed to serve in the military to any

Before "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" there was a screening process in place to prevent homosexuals from entering into military service. After 1993 and Clinton's bill, the military was not allowed to screen personnel for homo-

However, the military was still allowed to investigate whether or not someone was gay after their acceptance, resulting in more than 12,000 dismissals from the military, according to Time magazine.

Clearly this policy has come under increased scrutiny throughout the years. With Clinton's unofficial repeal of banning gays from the military came a monumental step toward freedom of expression. Now comes the time for that initial movement to be finished with allowing homosexuals to openly serve in the military.

President Obama declared that he desired a repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" during his presidential campaign. Since then, the president has only promised a change of the law.

In his recent State of the Union address, he said, "This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are."

Finally President Obama has declared a time line for gays' equality in the military, but he needs to take action immediately and urge Congress to pass the bill. If not, the bill might get put on the back burner, delaying further action for the estimated 60,000 gays, lesbians and bisexuals in the military, according to a study by Williams Institute at UCLA's School of Law.

Equality in the United States should also represent equality for those allowed to protect their country. People of different ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds are allowed to serve in the military, and homosexuals should

no longer be excluded from that list. It is a ridiculous precept to believe that someone must keep something a secret in order to participate in military service. A law needs to be passed that says openly homosexual people can, and are welcome to, serve in the military alongside everyone else. We are moving in that direction, and now it's time to take that final step.

> Drew Morris is a senior in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.

Responsibility needed if the U.S. wishes to prosper



Do you remember learning about the founding fathers in grade school? You know, those guys that wrote the letter to the British, the same who that dumped a few thousand pounds of tea into the Atlantic? These were the guys who drafted the ever important piece of legisla-

tion that we know as the Constitution. I know it seems illogical that I pose such nonsensical question, but perhaps not. It seems that as a nation we've strayed away from what made

this nation great. I do not see anywhere in the Constitution where the founding fathers wrote in a clause giving life, liberty and universal health care for all. Nor can I find the clause in the Constitution where it requires the government to provide unemployment benefits for six months or provide trailers to victims of natural disasters.

I think helping people get back on their feet is a great thing, but I don't think it is the responsibility of the federal government. Rather the responsibility falls on the shoulders of us as citizens of the U.S. Our nation became prominent not because people waited around for the government to send their unemployment check via Pony Express, but because people went out and took responsibility for the mouths they had to feed. The U.S. didn't become great because our ancestors spent time bickering over who can and can't fight in the military, but because they laced up their combat boots and put foot to tail for their country because it was the right thing to do. If we want to get anywhere close to being back on track as a country, we need to stop waiting for Washington to hand us the next bail out or pay

our next doctor bill. Instead we need to pull ourselves up by our

boot straps and take action. That's why I'm challenging you. I challenge you to do what you know in your heart is right. I'm calling on you to join me in taking responsibility. If your neighbor's house is flattened by a twister, help him put it back up. If you find yourself without a job with a family to feed and bills to pay, please don't spend time in the unemployment line. Find a job doing something. Find a job doing anything. I know it might not be the most glorious job ever, but I think providing for your family by any means possible is. Fortitude and diligence made America great, not waiting for

always told me growing up that doing the right thing was hard to do. Actually, when you think about it, doing the right thing is fairly simple and straightforward. In life we come to a crossroads on a daily basis in which we are presented with the opportunity to do the right thing. We either choose to do the right thing or we don't. It is that simple. I'm calling on you to do the right thing. It is time that we take some responsibility and make the U.S. great again because ultimately it is our nation, and our responsibility.

Marshall Frey is a sophomore in construction science management. Please send comments to opionion@spub.ksu.edu.

Valentine's Day should no longer be materialistic



You already know the truth about Valentine's Day. It's obviously a commercial holiday; its place in our social conscious has been carved out by the corporations who enjoy billions in retail sales every February. It's romantic history is dubious at best, but at the very least, commercialism has made the holiday into something completely unrelated to its supposed origins. If our generation is going to insist upon keeping this boost to the economy alive, we can at least make some changes to the way the holiday op-

Here's the traditional Valentine's Day narrative: the man "surprises" his significant other with flowers, candy or jewelry. Perhaps love notes are exchanged. Children at school bring candy to exchange with one another, and inevitably somebody

gets disappointed. I'll suggest three changes to Valentine's Day: dropping the emphasis on products, rejecting its sexist obligations and recognizing its current status as a vehicle for heterosexism. In other words, Valentine's Day should be about recognizing and celebrating our love for one another, not about men buying women the products they're taught to expect.

I think a large reason commercialism has a stranglehold on Valentine's Day is lack of communication. It seems like the gift exchange is based

on assumed expectations. A simple discussion before the holiday, such as "Hey, just so you know, I think Valentine's Day is a commercial holiday and I am just going to love you every day" can prevent anxiety over expectations. Chances are, your partner will already be on the same page. Do you really want a partner who would be upset if you shunned meaningless cul-

tural norms anyway? I'm not saying Valentine's Day can't be a special time to express one's love for another, just that the expression shouldn't take the form of a product. Doing something for the other person, like writing a thoughtful note or cooking dinner, will mean so much more. I personally find that just making a list of things you like about a person is always a well-received

Even if we don't want to give up the product-exchange, we can still eradicate its sexist direction. Advertising is constantly pushing the idea that Valentine's gifts are from men to women. While this might seem like a pretty good deal ladies, these types of benevolent sexism recreate the divisions that are the basis for malevolent sexism. And don't you love your partner too? Valentine's Day gift-giving should go both ways.

Valentine's Day may not be inherently heterosexist, but its cultural manifestations certainly are. The millions of greeting cards, advertisements and even school children's valentines all emphasize that a heterosexist relationship is the norm, and a homosexual one is too deviant to be marketable. Individuals can challenge this as-

sumption by reconceptualizing Valentine's Day. Campus events hosted by student organizations can avoid heterosexist phrasing and marketing and heterosexual couples can refuse to purchase products that reinforce the

supposed norm. Valentine's Day is a microcosm of our larger society, but the causal relation goes both ways. If we can change our sexist and heterosexist assumptions, as well as our commitment to consumerism, on Feb. 14, we can change them for every day. Valentine's day doesn't have much redeeming cultural value – love is every day – but if we insist upon keeping it, we might as well make it a better holiday.

Beth Mendenhall is a senior in political science and philosophy. Please send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.

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Campus' least liked job: parking service workers patrol lots, serve customers

Jason Strachman Miller | COLLEGIAN

The looks say it all; a mix of smirks and scowls descend from onlookers as the white Ford Ranger pulls to a stop in front of a car with no visible parking pass. As Dillon Sherman, senior in graphic design and electrical engineering, exits in his blue vest, he immediately looks in the car's window.

"I'm checking to make sure the pass hasn't fallen off the mirror or isn't on the console or floor," he said

With no pass in sight Sherman walks to the license plate while reaching to his hip and furiously types into what resembles a high-tech pricing gun from a retail chain. Unfortunately for this driver, there are no rollback savings happening here. In seconds he tears off a sheet of paper and neatly slides it into the infamous yellow envelope and places it under the windshield wiper. Hundreds of these envelopes await staff, students and visitors weekly.

Having worked for parking services for more than two years, this is just another day at the office for Sherman. While many students see the small yellow envelope as a personal attack, parking services considers citing violators a service to the paying cus-

"We view the customer as the person who paid to park in a stall," said Darwin Abbott, director of parking services. "Someone who parked illegally is blocking the customer from the stall they paid to park in."

Sherman said it took him about a month to become familiar with the parking lots and now he is able to spot cars parked illegally at a glance. In minutes the truck is stopped

again and out exits Sherman into the cold afternoon air. Climbing back into the cab, he spots another car and puts on his safety belt, commenting on how he'll have to take it back off in no time.

"I'm so used to walking that I can get through a lot in about 30 minutes, but normally we go in groups and it can take 10 to 20 minutes to finish a lot," Sherman said. "I do try to avoid the 10-minute window when people are walking to and from their cars. There are some who do get irate about tickets and I've found that if I avoid that time then they don't have a chance to get that way in most cases."

Abbott said all the parking control officers have radios for safety.

"The police are always monitoring our communication," Abbott said. "This is especially important at night and the week-

The full-time employees recently received training on how to deal with irate customers, Sherman said. Parking services is working on an instructional video session to help employees find effective ways to calm down irritated customers. Employees are required to call the campus police if anyone becomes

"No one tends to do anything - you'd be shocked how often you can hear people saying things when they think we're not around," Sherman said. "But once we are close, no one says anything unless they are walking away."

Sherman said he tries to remain calm, "It's not worth it, it's my job so I just go and do it," Sherman said.

As Sherman exited the lot, he recounted

a time he was sitting in the library and overheard students talking about getting ticketed earlier that day. He said he just smiles and keeps his mouth shut. The reason he finds this funny, he said, is because the students complain, but have all the power to fix the situation by not parking illegally.

Not all students find the parking rules at K-State to be unforgiving. Britton Downs, junior in mass communications, said on more than one occasion, parking services waived his ticket fee because his pass was in his glove compartment. Downs said he had gone to the airport and removed his pass while his car was parked and forgot to place it back in his mirror. The parking service reduced his payment to a small fee.

"They'll work with you; it's only fair for the people who pay for a pass to have a spot," Downs said. "I wouldn't want their job, though, that's for sure."

Abbott agreed that the job of a parking control officer is not for everyone. New hires have quit after just one or two shifts in the past. He cites dislike for the amount of walking and the weather as the main rea-

"One week tends to be the breakpoint," Abbott said.

For students like Sherman, the weeks have become months and now the months, years. He admitted he used to feel guilty about giving tickets, but as time has worn on he has even become immune to ticketing his friends' cars. He said they all know he works for parking services and should know better than to park illegally.

"I know that sounds bad, but I try to stay fair," Sherman said. "Working here longer, I see how wrong it is to help out someone and not help out everyone."

Contrary to student lore, there is no quota for parking tickets, Sherman and Abbott said. Sherman said it is a job like any other and they have supervisors who keep track of the employees and keep them on task, just like other jobs on campus. Unlike most jobs on campus, though, the parking control officers seem to have more eyes on them than the average campus employee.

"If there is anyone on campus that sees us sitting down, they're goning rat us out in a heartbeat," Sherman said. "I went inside to warm up during the middle of winter in a building and I got yelled at when I got back to the offices.

Sherman said someone had taken notice of him and took the time to phone his office to make them aware he was sitting down on the job. Abbott said many students fail to understand that the control officers are out to help enforce parking, and all the revenue from the tickets is recycled into the parking lots.

"All the money collected goes into the lights, snow removal and maintenance," Ab-

As Sherman parked the truck in a service stall, he decided to walk the last accompanied lot to save time. Class was soon to let out and he wanted to be on his way. As a student who has his own first ticket story, he knows firsthand what it is like to dislike parking services.

"Now I know it's just a job," Sherman said. "I get paid for it. I've learned to deal with the fact that I may not be liked by the majority of the student population."

SGA | \$80K will help pay for student tickets

Continued from Page 1

"I don't know how that changes depending on what side you're on," Weston said. "I guess some people read the constitution and some people don't."

He also said that the process remains unconstitutional. The tribunal did not have have a problem with the commissioner filing complaints, he said, but with the commissioner acting as both investigator and judge. "Nowhere in the ruling

does it state that filing complaints was something they had a problem," said Senator Doug Shane, junior in animal sciences.

Henry said that the process will undergo further examination after the elec-

"If we keep dragging this out ... we only perpetrate the demise of our ability to govern ourselves," Henry said.

Weston, the original petitioner to the tribunal, held a copy of new petition at the meeting. After the bills passed, he said that he was going to immediately petition the tribunal again.

Athletic Director John Currie presented at the meeting regarding a bill that would provide new seats for Ahearn Field House and reduce student ticket prices for 2011, 2012 and 2013. "When our team is play-

ing on television and people watch our arena, what do they see?" Currie asked. "Students; they are the pri-

He said that many colleges sell their court-side seating at a premium and move their student sections to the corner of the building. Currie said that would not happen at K-State.

Student ticket sales were down this year and neither ICAT nor GA sold out. In years past, they sold out before the start of the year.

In a bill that the senate passed yesterday evening, the senate will provide \$80,000 to help offset a decrease in ticket prices.

Also, bleachers in Ahearn will be replaced by folding seats for the student section and season ticket holders. The current bleachers were purchased in the 1970s, said Senator Jessica Schultz, senior in political science.



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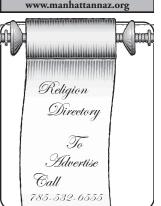
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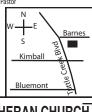
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KU store provides racist shirts



Joe College, T-shirt shop extraor-dinaire based out of Lawrence, would be comparable to many cities' local T-shirt shops. Thread in Manhattan does similar work, where the customer can basically put anything they want on a T-shirt, unlicensed of course, and leave a happy camper.

But when does a shirt go too far? Many four-lettered expletives are found on these sorts of T-shirts, generally targeted at rival colleges by annoyed fans. Where should the freedom to say what you want be controlled? Well, perhaps in their latest escapade at Joe College.

K-State men's basketball head coach Frank Martin was the target of an unruly fix-up of just this style. A T-shirt with a picture of a person mowing the lawn, topped with a hat that says "Cats" and the title "Frank Martin mows my lawn," adorned with the blue color and team name "Kansas" across the front was displayed on their Web site for sale.

According to a number of emails sent out to different bloggers, supporters and angry fans of Martin, the shop pulled the T-shirt after receiving complaints and only sold two of them. It was created by a student and 24 were printed.

As we would expect, the blame is shoved off on the student, not the workers who diligently printed the shirt for their day's dollars. It certainly would've crossed my mind to think "Hmm, this may get some-body in trouble." Not only did they use his name and identify they were in fact talking about Coach Martin with the Cats hat, but they decided to grab one of the most racial stereotypes of them all.

Understandably, it will be argued that no negative tone was meant to be established, but common sense would direct that you just can't say something like that.

Do students go too far these days? Has it gotten to the point that sporting competition promotes violence and hatred toward each other and between instate schools? Some take it too far. That's simply the cold, hard truth. When standing in line at the Texas game, I saw two lonely Texas fans walking down the sidewalk as K-State fans threw things at them from water bottles to pizza.

True K-Staters would do well to recognize that Frank Martin has, on a number of occasions, discussed not only being a winner off the court, but about respect and what it takes to be a role model. As such, we should not only do justice to ourselves but to our teams, by not being involved with such callous attempts at antagonizing.

So look for a way to prove yourself as a better fan than those who have sunk to such levels. Wildcat fans, unite in loyalty and respect, and when Martin and Co. march into Lawrence with something to prove, we can celebrate a Wildcat victory. Hold your tongues, if no other reason than to be the better person, and let's support Frank Martin all the way through a "W" in Jayhawk country on March 3.

Aaron Weiser is a senior in economics. Please send comments to sports@spub.ksu.edu.

Staying on Track



COURTESY KANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Jeffrey Julmis jumps over a hurdle at a meet earlier this season. Julmis and the Wildcats are in split-squad competition this weekend at

Cats to compete in two meets over weekend

Justin Nutter | COLLEGIAN

In recent weeks, head track coach Cliff Rovelto has said it is the time of year when athletes start to focus on improving their individual performances. This weekend, the Wildcats will have the chance to do just that.

K-State has sent a group of 26 athletes to the Iowa State Classic in Ames, Iowa, as well as 19 to the Tyson Invitational in Fayetteville, Ark., for a pair of two-day meets, which begin today. Rovelto, who is in his 21st season with the Wildcats, said the multiple venues give his athletes a better opportunity to improve in their respective events.

"Iowa State, given their 300-meter track, is a better place for the long sprinters, middle-distance and distance runners to get quality times. That's the reason they're going there. The group that's going to Arkansas, for the most part, are guys and gals who are capable of qualifying for

the NCAA championship. The indoor national championship will take place at that same venue – the Randal Tyson Track Center – March 12-13. It is not the first championship meet hosted by Arkansas and, as to Rovelto said,

its for good reason.

"In recent years, it's hosted the majority of the indoor national championships," he

The Wildcats competing this weekend will do so in a championship-caliber venue. Iowa State's Lied Recreational Center will host the Big 12 Championship on Feb. 26-27.

That could arguably work to K-State's advantage down the stretch, as the Wildcats will have already competed in Ames twice before the league meet. The men and women both earned third-place finishes at the Bill Bergen Invitational Jan. 30.

Locations aside, the Wildcats' head coach believes all participants will see top-notch competition from all corners of the nation.

"The quality of the meets in both places is very high. It wasn't like there was going to be better competition at one place or the other. Wherever they're going, it's going to be good."

Following this weekend's split-squad action, K-State will come home for the KSU Open – just the second meet of the season in Ahearn Field House for one final tune-up before the conference championship.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Wildcats to host the Iowa Hawkeyes this Saturday

Justin Nutter | COLLEGIAN

To a college athlete, it's hard to showcase his or her talents in front of hometown fans. After several weeks of waiting, the K-State tennis team will get that opportunity this

The Wildcats, coming off a twoweek break, will welcome the Iowa Hawkeyes to Manhattan for a dual match on Saturday. Fan attendance may not be very high, but K-State is ready to compete in familiar territo-

ry, said head Steve Bietau, "There are some schools that are developing pretty good crowds," Bietau said. "I'm not sure we're at that point yet, but it doesn't take a lot of

fans to help us out there." But the real advantage to playing at home?

"They slept in their own beds last night," he said. "The obvious benefit of not having to travel is probably the biggest thing. When we played in Des Moines, we had a 4 [p.m.] match and we drove up that morning. That's not the way we would normally want to do it."

That trip to Des Moines - a two-part duel with Northern Iowa and Drake on Jan. 30-31 - was the last time the Wildcats' took the court. Despite sending several hours on the road, they opened their season with a 5-2 win against the Panthers and followed it with a 6-1 decision against the Bulldogs.

Bietau, who is in his 26th season with the Wildcats, said he was pleased with his team's effort in their

first competitions, but acknowledged the Hawkeyes feature more talented athletes than the Wildcats have seen this season.

"We had a good performance at Des Moines two weeks ago," he said. "We were a little tight and had some first-match jitters against Northern Iowa, but we settled down and played better through the weekend. This is going to be a step up in the level of competition and it's all about the team's performance now."

Bietau added he and the coaching staff will be keeping close watch on all participants. one-day meet, which is set to begin

at 11 a.m., is one of just two occasions in which K-State will play on its own courts in the month of February. The Wildcats will return to



Nathaniel LaRue | COLLEGIAN

Head coach Steve Bietau talks with senior Natasha Vieira during a match last spring. K-State will take on lowa this weekend in Manhattan.

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1

3

2 1 7 4 6 9 3 5 8

6 5 8 3 2 7 9 1 4

3 9 4 5 1 8 7 2 6

8 4 6 7 9 2 1 3 5

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6 8

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Justin Hall displays "trashy" fashion

Pauline Kennedy | COLLEGIAN

Knitted purses and crocheted dresses have been around for centuries, but the ones in display cases around Justin Hall are definitely different. Using materials like grocery bags, plastic table clothes and newspapers bags, Elizabeth Bender has found a new and innovative way of designing clothing and accessories.

Bender, freshman at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia, and whose mother was a K-State graduate of the College of Human Ecology, uses many techniques to complete her sustainable-fabric designs. Several dresses on display were crocheted from plastic grocery bags or knitted from an old plastic tablecloth. For example, her design called "Think Pink," is a creation of a 50s-styled dress and a matching purse knitted together with various pink

Bethaney Wallace | COLLEGIAN

died Feb. 7 in Kandahar,

Afghanistan from injuries

sustained from a non-com-

bat related injury, accord-

ing to a press release from

29, was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters

Pfc. Charles Williams,

Fort Riley.

A Fort Riley soldier

shades of plastic leis.

Bender also had jewelry made from recycled products. One necklace on display, "Pieces of Paradise," was made from items found on a beach in Hawaii. The necklace consisted of copper wire, silver wire and sea

Jana Hawley, department head for apparel textiles and interior design, said she saw Benders work at an exhibit in Kansas City, Kan. She said the focus on sustainable design is what interested her, as that is one of the focuses in the department.

Hawley said the clothing is wearable, although not very breathable for the skin, can be hand washed and is virtually indestructible. She said although they are design items here, many third world countries use recycled products to make clothing, which are picked up and sold as a fair trade.

Sara Horsch, junior in dietetics, said the clothing cre-

Fort Riley soldier dies in Afghanistan

Detachment, 97th Military

Police Battalion, United

States Army Garrison, First

Infantry Division, accord-

Calif.,

joined the Army in April of 2008 and had been sta-

tioned at Fort Riley since

Dec. 2008, according to the

press release. This was Wil-

Originally from Fair

Williams

ing to the press release.

ated could be worn to make a statement.

"It's a good idea because we need to become more friendly." environmentally she said.

Horsch said she probably would not wear the clothing because it wasn't her style, but that she could see it becoming more of a trend in the future.

"It's kind of different," she said. "It's creative."

Marla Day, senior curator for apparel textiles and interior design, said she could see this as another option for clothing.

"I think they're fun, it's fascinating," she said. "I don't know what it would feel like to wear though."

Bender's display, Re-Style: An Exhibit of Trashy Fashion, has been up since Nov. 2 and will stay on display until Feb. 28. There are four display cases for the designer, two on the first floor and two on the second floor of Justin Hall.

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support of the war on ter-

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to specialist after death, ac-

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Off the court with Nick Russell

Nick Russell is a freshman guard on the amazing K-State men's basketball team. During his first season with the No. 9 Wildcats, Russell is averaging 6.9 minutes per game in a reserve role. The native of Duncanville, Texas, recently sat down with the Collegian to discuss a variety of topics, including his decision to become a Wildcat.

Q: Being from Texas, what made you choose K-State?

A: It was pretty much because of Frank [Martin]. I trust Frank. He's a great coach. I just wanted to come out of high school and get stronger and better. I felt like Scott Greenawalt, our strength coach, was the best in the business to get me to the next level.

O: What has it been like to have teammates from all over the country?

A: It's funny at times because there are so many different accents. We all sound different, but deep down, we're all still the same kind of people. We all hang out together. You can tell a little bit that we're all from different places just by the way we talk, but it's a fun experience.

Q: Did you really know anyone when you got to Manhattan?

A: No I didn't. Actually, the people I did know, they happened to leave. When I got here, I really didn't know many people. I knew Wally [Judge] and Rodney [McGruder] from occasional visits and stuff. As soon as I got here, the team welcomed me in. When I first got here in the summertime, it felt

Q: What do you like to do when you're not playing or traveling?

A: I'd have to say I'm in my dorm. I'll be with the freshmen a lot. I'd have to say everybody's my best friend on the team, but the person I hang out with the most would be Martavious [Irving] because he's my suite-mate.

Q: Can you describe what was going through your head when you first ran onto the floor in Bramlage Coliseum?

A: I don't know. There were a lot of indescribable nerves. At first, I was nervous, but I was excited at the same time. It's different from when you watch a college game and when you play in a college game. I was just taken over by the fans, the sea of purple. It was

Q: How far do you think your freshman class has some since November?

A: Very far. I think about it every day. It's the little things like getting to the ball, knowing what to do and what not to do in situations. We came a long way. We still mess up little things at times, but we're getting better at it.

Q: With the guard spots opening up a little bit next year, do you think you'll have an opportunity to see some more minutes?



A: Before I graduate, I want to at least make it to the Final Four, win a national championship, win the Big 12. Basically, I just want to get Kansas State to the next level. I want to keep getting better as time goes on.

Check out our blog!

friday, february 12, 2010



Log on to the sports section on the Collegian Web site for news and information about K-State athletics that doesn't make the sports page. Includes postgame breakdowns, analyses, opinion pieces and more. Check it out at kstatecollegian. com.

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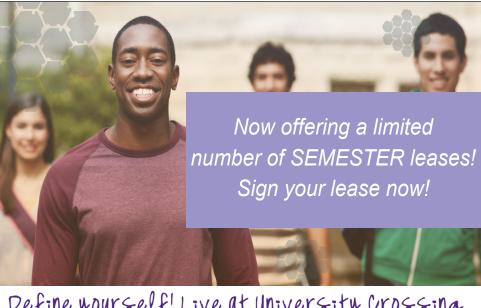


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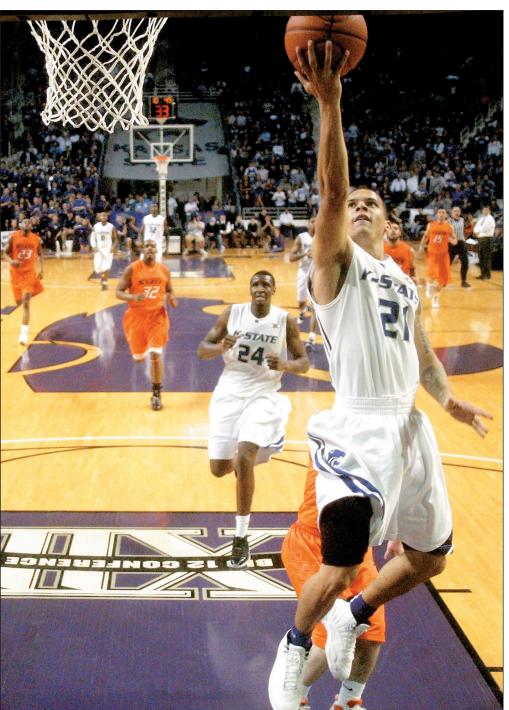
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friday, february 12, 2010

Wildcat Return



lonathan Knight | COLLEGIAN

Senior guard Denis Clemente drives to the basket in a 73-69 loss to Oklahoma State on Jan. 23. Clemente received the distinction of Big 12 player of the week this past week after averaging more than 26 points in the past two games.

Wildcats face Buffaloes to begin two-game homestand

Ashley Dunkak | COLLEGIAN

The rematch between No. 9 K-State and Colorado will take place at 5 p.m. on Saturday in Bramlage Coliseum. At the Buffaloes' own Coors Events Center, they took No. 1 Kansas to overtime, but they have struggled mightily on the road in recent years, with 33 straight road losses in league play.

The Buffs (11-12, 2-7 Big 12) gave the Wildcats (19-4, 6-3 Big 12) a scare in the Jan. 16 game in Boulder, Colo., only relinquishing the game by six points, 87-81. K-State's largest lead was nine points, and it was a close contest all the way. The bench was key for K-State, providing 32 points and 18 rebounds. Also, the last time the teams met, it was an absolute foul-fest, with 68 calls total. Three Colorado players fouled out of the game.

In that game Buffs junior forward Cory Higgins shot 12 of 18 for 30 points, and three other Colorado players scored in double figures. Collectively, the team shot 53.2 percent from the field.

Teams usually improve over the course of a season, and Wildcats Coach Frank Martin said the Buffs are better because they have played more games and also because freshman forward Alec Burks, who scored 27 points against Missouri in the team's last game, is healthy and playing again.

"Early in the Big 12 season, they're still trying to figure out they can do it," Martin said of Colorado. "And they've figured out they can, and now they've just got to get

Colorado's most recent game ended as a 66-84 loss. Associate head coach Steve Mc-

Clain said after the loss that the big men did not give the team enough defensively.

"Defensively in the post, we have to do the little things," McClain said. "We have to slide our feet better, make guys make shots over us. We gave them some angles in there, but that's just part of where we need to improve."

After three straight losses, Colorado is looking to bounce back.

"We're going to practice hard so we don't have a drop-off like we did today," senior guard Dwight Thorne II said after the loss. "I think if we get in the gym and we compete with each other and practice hard for Kansas State on Saturday, I think we'll be alright."

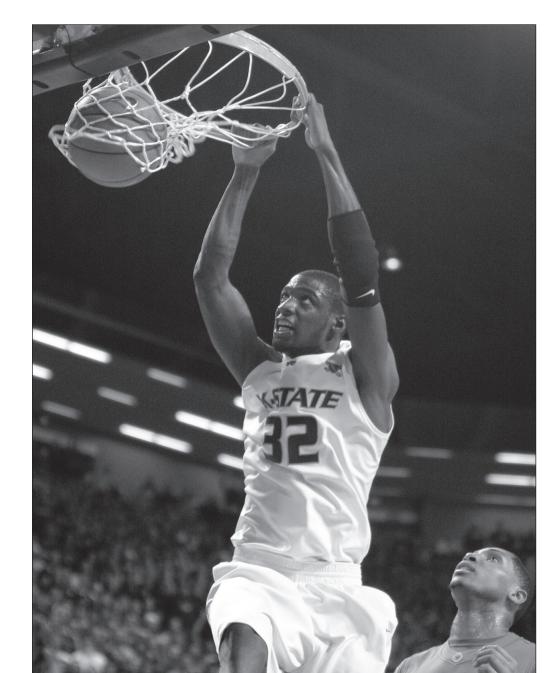
Both the Buffs and the Wildcats are coming off a week of rest, at least in the sense that neither team had a midweek game.

After last Saturday's four-point win over Iowa State, Martin said the Wildcats had Sunday off practice and came back Monday with a lot of film, teaching and individual work with players. He said they had a full-bore practice on Tuesday and treated it like a game day. On Wednesday, they spent time on film, shooting and breakdown drills that they have not been able to incorporate into practice since Christmas. Thursday and Friday were full-blown preparation for Colorado.

"Instead of looking at it as a vacation, you look at it as a time to educate through the mind, not so much through the physical competitiveness of it, which after six months, you've got to be fresh mentally, emotionally and physically," Martin said. "And if we approach this week the right way, we should be able to take advantage of this week to keep ourselves fresh."



friday, january 29, 2010



Sophomore forward Jamar Samuels dunks the ball as Texas forward Gary Johnson looks on during a breakaway layup in the Jan. 18 win over Texas. The Wildcats beat the Longhorns 71-62 on ESPN's Big

Big 12 midseason report: South division underachieving



Grant Guggisberg

We're now officially halfway through the Big 12 Conference season, and many of the predictions about the league have

Yes, the Big 12 is easily one of the top two conferences in the nation, and yes, Kansas is on track to win the league for the sixth season in a row. However, some things

have not gone as predicted. What was thought to be a balanced league, with two teams from the North and two teams from the South tabbed as the top four teams, has not panned out. Texas, which all along has been thought to challenge Kansas for the league title, has lost five of its last seven games. Oklahoma, picked to finish ahead of K-State at third, has dropped to a three-way tie for seventh in the league. Instead, the top of the league standings are totally dominated by the North, with Kansas, K-State and Missouri claiming spots

at the top. To put it frankly, the South division is a mess right now. The most consistent team has been Tex-

as A&M. Yes, the same Agby K-State 88-65 earlier in the season. With Texas and Baylor struggling lately, the opportunity for a consistent, fundamentally sound basketball team like Texas A&M to move up in the standings

NCAA tournament. Another surprise team in this league is the Missouri Tigers. Unranked and tied for second in the standings, the Tigers have made the most of a favorable schedule, beating K-State in the conference opener and winning games they are supposed to win against teams picked to finish near the bottom of the standings. Can they pull out some big wins and find themselves in the tourney? Anything is possible, and we'll know a lot more about this team after they

play their next two games against Baylor and Texas. Baylor is another team that can't seem to find their true identity. Behind a tough 2-3 zone and a pair of guards as capable as any in the league, this team has the tools to win big games, but hasn't been able to come through much this season. They did manage to beat Texas in Austin, but lost games against KU, K-State and Texas A&M. This team could just as easily be second in the Big 12 with a 7-2 league record had it beat-

en any of those upper-tier

gie squad that got thwomped business against Colorado in the first week of the confer-

Also in the mix and underachieving are the two Sooners have made a habit out of underachieving all season. At this point, nothing they do surprises me. But the Cowboys had the opportunity to make some noise in the Big 12 this year after scoring back-to-back wins over K-State and Texas A&M. They've since lost three straight, including a loss to Texas Tech.

Finally, there's the K-State Wildcats. Other than a tough road game on March 3 against Kansas, this team has an extremely favorable schedule to finish the season in second place. Their next toughest game could be a road game against Oklahoma, which just defeated Texas on its home court. However, the Wildcats have the size, physicality and toughness to win a road game in that atmosphere. Look for the Wildcats not only to return to the NCAA tournament, but to win a few games once they get there. I won't go out on a limb and say they're a favorite to get to the Final Four, but they are easily among the top eight teams in the country

Grant Guggisberg is a senior in print iournalism. Send comments to sports@spub.ksu.edu.

BIG 12 MEN'S UPDATE Team *Big* 12 Next Game Overall No. 1 Kansas 9-0 23-1 vs. Iowa State 6-3 19-4 vs. Colorado No. 9 K-State at Baylor 6-3 18-6 Missouri 6-3 Texas A&M 17-6 at Texas Tech No. 24 Baylor 5-4 18-5 vs. Missouri 5-4 No. 14 Texas 19-5 vs. Nebraska 4-5 16-7 vs. Texas A&M Texas Tech 4-5 vs. Oklahoma Oklahoma State 16-7 Oklahoma 4-5 13-10 at Oklahoma State 2-7 Iowa State 13-11 at Kansas 2-7 Colorado 11-12 at K-State 1-8 Nebraska 13-11 at Texas

Charge Forth



Freshman guard **Mariah White** and junior guard Shalin Spani celebrate with freshman guard **Taelor Karr** late in the 37-33 win against Missouri.

Wildcats look to find offense, road win at Texas A&M

Tyler Scott | COLLEGIAN

After a shaky performance at home against conference rival Missouri, K-State will look to create a small winning streak when they travel to College Station and take on the high powered Aggies of Texas A&M.

The Wildcats are coming off a victory in which they scored only 37 points and shot less than 30 percent from the floor. Both K-State and Missouri combined for only 70 points which is the lowest in Bramlage Coliseum history.

"We shattered the record," head coach Deb Patterson said. "I'm encouraged with what we can continue to get better at." Texas A&M suffered an upset loss to instate rival Texas

Tech on Wednesday night, losing 57-54. Both the Wildcats and Aggies will take it to the lievable stretch ahead of us in

hardwood with a 4-5 record in terms of our schedule and I just

Texas A&M is led by two Kansas City, Mo., natives in junior forward Danielle Adams and freshman guard Tyra White. Adams comes in averaging 16.2 points per game and 5.8 rebounds, while White is shooting 55.7 percent from the field.

"It seems like we always play A&M after an unexpected loss on their part and on the road," Patterson said. "It's a matchup of great athleticism and with Adams they have a very big, wide body down low who will present some interesting matchup issues for us."

The last time the two teams met, Texas A&M won a nail biter 65-63 on March 13 of last year. "It's Big 12 play and we have

to be ready," Patterson said. "We know we have an unbe-

want us to get better on the offensive end. We got better on the defensive end in the last game which was good."

Senior forward Ashley Sweat will look to make more of a difference Saturday. She only scored six points and also spent a good amount of time on the bench against Missouri. In the last meeting against the Aggies, Sweat finished with 19 points.

"I didn't think she was posting any greater production on the floor than anyone else," Patterson said. "To me it was let's see if we can get some production from other players to see any kind of change." If K-State can come out on

top, they will move up in the standings ahead of the Aggies. The game is scheduled for 7

p.m. at Reed Arena in College

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BIG 12 WOMEN'S UPDATE			
Team	Big 12	Overall	Next Game
No. 3 Nebraska	9-0	21-0	at Missouri
No. 12 Oklahoma	7-3	17-6	vs. Colorado
No. 20 Iowa St.	6-3	18-4	vs. Baylor
No. 15 Oklahoma St.	6-3	18-5	vs. Texas Tech
No. 14 Texas	6-3	17-6	at Kansas
No. 11 Baylor	4-5	17-6	at Iowa St.
No. 13 Téxas A&M	4-5	16-6	vs. K-State
Kansas	4-5	14-8	vs. Texas
K-State	4-5	12-11	at Texas A&M
Texas Tech	2-7	14-9	at Oklahoma St.
Colorado	2-7	12-10	at Oklahoma
Missouri	1-9	11-12	vs. Nebraska

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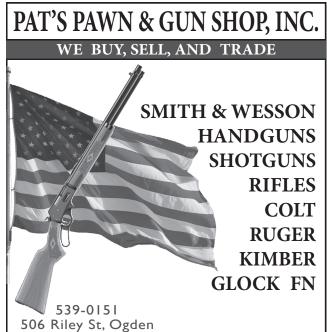












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